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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate for Intelligence
30 November 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

India-Pakistan Situation Report
(As of 1230 EST)

1. There are no signs of a let-up in fighting along the India - East Pakistan border. The most serious engagement is under way in the Balurghat-Hilli region astride the West Bengal - East Pakistan border. Press reports indicate skirmishes are continuing at many points in the Jessore and Sylhet Districts and that the Mukti Bahini is gaining some ground. The guerrillas claim to have "liberated" 900 square miles in Sylhet. In northwest East Pakistan they claim to have set up a civil administration in a 15,000 square mile "liberated area."

2. Today in New Delhi, Prime Minister Gandhi took a particularly tough line on the crisis. In an address to Parliament, Mrs. Gandhi reportedly demanded the withdrawal of Pakistani troops from East Pakistan, claiming this is the only way to bring about peace. She indicated India would continue to send troops across the border.

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3. The Indian Navy has been granted control over Indian merchant shipping in the entire Indian Ocean. All ships in India's registry are now required to report details of all their movements to

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the navy and cannot sail without the navy's permission. Shipping services to Arabian Gulf and Red Sea ports have been terminated. India's move follows a similar action taken by Pakistan last week.

4. There are signs that India considers the chances are rising for a Pakistani strike on India's western border. Kamal Bakshi, the Indian Assistant High Commissioner in Karachi, formerly optimistic that an all-out war could be avoided, now believes pressure in the East will force Pakistan to initiate hostilities, possibly in Kashmir and/or the Punjab. This morning the last remaining group of Indian official dependents left Karachi for India.

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6. Chinese Vice Premier Li Hsien-nien yesterday voiced Peking's strongest and most authoritative accusation against India in the current phase of the crisis, but again made evident China's desire for a political settlement. Li accused India of carrying out subversive activities and military provocations against East Pakistan, as well as invading and occupying Pakistani territory, but he struck a conciliatory note by affirming that Yahya Khan's proposal that India and Pakistan withdraw their troops from the border was "reasonable." Li lashed out at the USSR indirectly, accusing it of supporting and encouraging the Indians, but his criticisms did not match those delivered last Friday at the UN by Deputy Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua, who called the Indo-Soviet treaty signed last August essentially a military alliance, adding that it had led to "bare-faced aggression against Pakistan." Li's speech and Chiao's harsh words mark a step up in Peking's public expressions

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of concern, but evidence no change in China's basic policy of maintaining cautious political and military assistance to the Pakistan Government, while urging it to work as rapidly as possible toward a political settlement within East Pakistan and with India.

7. Soviet media, meanwhile, have dropped all pretense of nonpartisanship in describing the situation on the subcontinent. Moscow has completely obscured the origins of the recent increase in military activity and instead is portraying India as the aggrieved party, desiring peace and engaging in purely defensive reactions to numerous and increasing Pakistani provocations. The Soviets are still calling for a peaceful political solution to the crisis, but it has become clearer that Moscow shares New Delhi's view that if peace does come it will have to be on India's terms.

8. UN Undersecretary General Guyer told the US that U Thant has received the official Pakistani request for UN observers on the border in East Bengal. Thant sent the request on to the president of the Security Council, with the notation that the matter was beyond his competence and should come before the Council under the terms of the UN Charter. Thant's conception of a limited mandate is in accordance with his traditional practice and probably kills any immediate prospect that UN observers will be sent.

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